

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 2948-01
Bill No.: HB 1485
Subject: Children and Minors: Division of Family Services
Type: Original
Date: February 11, 2002

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Revenue	(\$709,441)	(\$690,404)	(\$707,759)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds	(\$709,441)	(\$690,404)	(\$707,759)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Federal	(\$330,198)	(\$340,088)	(\$348,910)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	(\$330,198)	(\$340,088)	(\$348,910)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials of the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** stated that the proposal would not have any fiscal impact on their agency.

Officials of **Department of Social Services - Division of Family Services** (DOS - DFS) would request 24.8 FTE due to this proposal.

The proposal would require DFS officials to contact the parents of a possible child victim before interviewing the child (unless the parent were suspected abusers) and would require officials to conduct child interviews away from the site of alleged abuse. Both requirements would add to the time DFS workers would devote to cases.

Officials used data from calendar year 2001 to estimate effects of this proposal. There were 59,303 Child Abuse/Neglect (CA/N) reports made in 2001. 19,570 of the reports were screened as an investigation. About 80% (15,656) had allegations of abuse occurring in the child's home.

Officials estimate that caseworkers would have spent an additional two (2) hours per case notifying non-suspect parent(s) prior to interviewing each child in a neutral setting, away from the home in which the alleged abuse occurred. This would have been an additional 31,312 work-hours (15,656 cases x 2 hours per case) during 2001. Assuming an average caseworker works 2,000 hours per year, this amounts to the need for an additional 15.7 Children's Service Workers.

DOS workload measures recommend a Supervisor I for each seven (7) Children's Service Workers ($15.7/7 = 2.2$ Supervisors I), a Supervisor III for every three Supervisors I ($2.2/3 = .7$ Supervisors III), and a Clerk-Typist for every 3 professional staff ($18.6/3 = 6.2$ Clerk Typists). Costs would be approximately 67% General Revenue Fund and 33% Federal Funds.

DFS officials also note that requiring CA/N reports be shared with school district liaison, who would retain them as all other school records are retained could have a non-fiscal impact. Provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act would supercede Missouri law. Subsection 210.150.5 allows alleged perpetrators named in CA/N reports access to the reports unless DFS determines identifying information in a report could place a person in jeopardy or criminal charges are pending. The proposal allows the possibility of alleged perpetrators gaining access to information (including names and addresses of witnesses) not available to them under current law.

Oversight assumes a 2040 hour working year and assumes DFS would request 15 Children's Service Workers, 2 Supervisors I, and 5 Clerk-Typists. Oversight also assumes additional personnel would be located in existing facilities and has excluded rental costs.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Cost - Department of Social Services</u>			
Personal Service (14.75 FTE)	(\$384,545)	(\$472,990)	(\$484,815)
Fringe Benefits	(\$138,475)	(\$170,324)	(\$174,582)
Expense and Equipment	<u>(\$186,421)</u>	<u>(\$47,090)</u>	<u>(\$48,362)</u>
Administrative Cost to DOS	(\$709,441)	(\$690,404)	(\$707,759)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>(\$709,441)</u>	<u>(\$690,404)</u>	<u>(\$707,759)</u>
FEDERAL FUNDS			
<u>Cost - Department of Social Services</u>			
Personal Service (7.25 FTE)	(\$190,506)	(\$234,323)	(\$240,181)
Fringe Benefits	(\$68,601)	(\$84,380)	(\$86,489)
Expense and Equipment	<u>(\$71,091)</u>	<u>(\$21,385)</u>	<u>(\$22,240)</u>
Administrative Cost to DOS	(\$330,198)	(\$340,088)	(\$348,910)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS	<u>(\$330,198)</u>	<u>(\$340,088)</u>	<u>(\$348,910)</u>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

This proposal would change some provisions of law governing investigation of allegations of child abuse or neglect.

It would require Division of Family Services officials to notify parents of children who are alleged victims before interviewing the children unless the parents are suspects. Division officials could not interview a child at the site of the alleged abuse.

The proposal would also require each school district to have one person designated as liaison and

would specify that all information the liaison receives about alleged child abuse and neglect cases DESCRIPTION (continued)

be subject to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g and federal rule 34 C. F. R. Part 99.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space. This legislation would not affect Total State Revenue.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Department of Social Services - Division of Family Services



Mickey Wilson, CPA
Acting Director
February 11, 2002